

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 DHA-02 OMB-01 /077 W

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R 071613Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2004

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 20441

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, CN

SUBJECT: COMORO ISLANDS

REF: PARIS 20275 (NOTAL)

1. COMORO SITUATION WAS DISCUSSED BY EMBOFF AUGUST 6 AND 7 WITH QUAI DESK OFFICER BERTRAND, WHO CONTINUES TO COMPLAIN OF LACK OF COORDINATION ON THIS SUBJECT ON PART OF SECRETARY OF STATE FOR OVERSEAS TERRITORIES, OLIVIER STIRN. BERTRAND SAID THAT AS FAR AS HE COULD DISCOVER, THERE HAD BEEN NO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF COMORO ISLANDS AT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AUGUST 6; CERTAINLY COMOROS WERE NOT MENTIONED IN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS COMMUNIQUE. BERTRAND ADMITS THAT THIS LEAVES GOF'S POSITION REGARDING RECOGNITION OF COMORO ISLANDS, FOLLOWING AUGUST 3 COUP, UNCLEAR. FRANCE PREFERS THAT OTHER STATES NOT RECOGNIZE COMORO ISLANDS FOR THE TIME BEING. BERTRAND SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO OAU'S GENERAL RECOGNITION OF COMORO ISLANDS' INDEPENDENCE' 19 COUNTRIES HAVE MORE OR LESS EXPLICITLY EXTENDED RECOGNITION. ONLY NON-AFRICAN COUNTRIES ON THIS LIST ARE SAUDI ARABIA, SOUTH YEMEN, SYRIA, GUYANA AND CHINA.

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2. BERTRAND SAID THAT MAJOR UNRESOLVED PROBLEM IS

WHETHER MAYOTTE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT, INCLUDING ITS LEADER MARCEL HENRY, WILL ACCEPT NEW MORONI REGIME AND WORK OUT MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE ARRANGEMENT. THIS WOULD MEAN FEDERAL CONSTITUTION WITH ENOUGH AUTONOMY FOR MAYOTTE TO SATISFY THAT ISLAND'S DEMANDS; AND, THEREFORE, PERMIT PRESERVATION OF COMORO UNITY WHILE BEING IN ACCORDANCE WITH FRANCE'S RECENTLY-ADOPTED LAW ON COMORO INDEPENDENCE.

3. COMMENT: GOF IS OBVIOUSLY IN SOME DISARRAY REGARDING COMORO ISLANDS. IF WE HAD TO GUESS, WE WOULD DOUBT THAT GOF ACTUALLY ENGINEERED THE COUP AGAINST ABDALLAH, ALTHOUGH IT IS ENTIRELY TO ADVANTAGE OF FRENCH AND THEY WILL TAKE FULL BENEFIT FROM IT. SOME FRENCH OFFICIALS MAY HAVE BEEN IMPLICATED LOCALLY IN LAST SUNDAY'S COMORO COUP. HOWEVER, DURING THAT WEEK-END STATE SECRETARY FOR OVERSEAS TERRITORIES WAS TOO FAR AWAY FROM FRANCE AND HIS MINISTRY'S OFFICES TOO INACTIVE TO MAKE US SUSPECT AN OFFICIAL PLOT. ON OTHER HAND, WE SUPPOSE GOF MUST HAVE HEARD THAT SOME SORT OF COUP WAS BEING HATCHED BY ITS FRIENDS IN MORONI AND GOF ACQUIESCED WITHOUT ACTUALLY PARTICIPATING.  
GAMMON

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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